



MANATABA MESSENGER

A Publication of the Colorado River Indian Tribes

Volume III Issue I

February, 2006

Senator Kyl visits CRIT, meets with council

Discusses key issues with Tribal leaders and receives appreciation for his work on La Paz Lands restoration issue

U.S. Senator Jon Kyl visited the CRIT reservation in late December and met with the Tribal Council about important issues facing CRIT members.

It was a rare visit for a sitting U.S. senator, but Kyl had shown awareness of CRIT issues through his support of the restoration of the La Paz Lands last year. He has also been profiled in a previous

issue of the *Manataba Messenger*.

For his efforts in supporting CRIT on the issue, Kyl received a plaque of appreciation from the Tribal Council at a ceremony in Tribal Council Chambers.

He also met with the Tribal Council and discussed several key issues on the federal level that have an effect

on CRIT Tribal members, including:

- Rehabilitation of the Tribal irrigation system, which is run by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. There is a backlog of repairs needed to the system, which CRIT is trying to expedite.
- Creating a way for Tribal veterans to access Veterans Administration services at the Parker Indian Hospital. Right now, veterans have to travel to Prescott or Phoenix for such services.

Kyl listened to Tribal concerns and pledged to do what he could to address them.

Tribal Chairman Daniel Eddy Jr. said the

“Senator Kyl did a great service for our people last year by supporting our efforts to regain the La Paz Lands. We are grateful that he took the time to visit with us and hear some of our concerns and ideas for the future.”

**— Tribal Chairman
Daniel Eddy, Jr.**



Senator Jon Kyl visited the CRIT reservation recently and received an award of appreciation from the Tribal Council for his help in returning the La Paz Lands to the people of CRIT. From left to right, Councilwoman Cindy Homer, Councilman Eldred Enas, Senator Kyl, Chairman Daniel Eddy, Jr., Councilman Ray Aspa, Vice Chairman Russell Welsh and Councilman T.J. Laffoon.

Tribal Council appreciated Kyl's visit and hopes the senator will continue to work on behalf of the people of CRIT.

“We were pleased to have the opportunity to welcome Senator Kyl to the CRIT reservation. He did a great service for our people last year by supporting our efforts to regain the La Paz Lands,” Eddy Jr. said.

“We are grateful that he took the time to visit

with us and hear some of our concerns and ideas for the future.”

It was Kyl's first visit to the CRIT Reservation. Previously, Senator John McCain had visited the reservation, as had former senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell from Colorado, who was one of the first Native Americans elected to federal office. The late Senator Barry Goldwater visited when he was in office as well.

In This Issue...

- ❖ Upcoming events, Page 3
- ❖ Photo contest results, Page 3
- ❖ CRIT Museum celebrates 40th Anniversary year, Page 6
- ❖ Best of Parker results, Page 7
- ❖ CRIT Honor Roll students, Page 9
- ❖ Parker Mayor hopes for better relations with CRIT, Page 10

CRIT gets grant for produce cooler

Will help CRIT Farms and other area farmers to diversify agricultural base

On December 20, the federal Department of Commerce awarded the EDA Public Works Grant to the Colorado River Indian Tribes.

The amount of this grant is \$1.75 million and will be used to partially fund the construction of a vegetable cooler on the CRIT Reservation, a key addition to the Tribes' agricultural facilities.

The cooler will be located on McCabe Road about a mile west of Mohave Road and twenty miles south of the town of Parker.

The proposed agricultural cooler will occupy

a 40,000 square-foot area. It is designed for processing melons (cantaloupe and honeydew) and vegetables (lettuce, broccoli, cauliflower and corn) before they are shipped to the market.

The facility will allow CRIT Farms and other area farmers to grow and ship crops not before possible in this area.

“This is an important facility for the diversification of our agricultural base,” said Tribal Chairman Daniel Eddy, Jr. “We are very pleased to be able to receive this grant and to have the opportunity to construct such a

Please see COOLER, Page 12

News, information from your Tribal Government

— Letters to the editor —

Chairman Daniel Eddy Jr.
Vice Chairman Russell Welsh
Tribal Council: Sylvia “Cindy” Homer (Secretary),
Eldred Enas (Treasurer), Dennis Patch,
Ray Aspa, Sr., Herman “TJ” Laffoon,
Valerie Welsh-Tahbo, Fernando “Bo” Flores

Kyl visit shows increasing concern for Tribal affairs

CRIT has a lot to thank its federal elected officials for after the return of the La Paz Lands. So it was gratifying for the Tribal Council and many Tribal members when Senator Jon Kyl took the time to visit the CRIT reservation.

Kyl’s support of efforts to return the La Paz Lands to CRIT last year was critical in the effort’s success.

For that, the people of CRIT will always be grateful, and the Tribal Council recognized him for his efforts during his visit.

But there are many other key issues at the federal level that CRIT is working on right now and will face in the future.

So perhaps the best thing about Kyl’s visit was the recognition that the people of CRIT are important to him, and he is interested in hearing our concerns and ideas.

Kyl spoke with the Tribal Council at length about such issues as the CRIT irrigation system, which is federally managed, and access for CRIT members to veterans’ benefits.

It was an important dialogue and hopefully another step along the way to resolving key issues that affect our quality of life.

We are not Democrats or Republicans. We all must work together to achieve our goals. That’s why we are grateful to Senator Kyl for his support and for taking the time to visit with Tribal Council members.

We hope that this will be a continuation of a strong relationship that benefits the people of the Colorado River Indian Tribes.

Grijalva has been there when CRIT needed him most

Recently, we read that Avondale Mayor Ron Drake would be running against Congressman Raul Grijalva, whose district includes the CRIT reservation.

Drake claimed in his opening remarks that Grijalva hasn’t been responsive to constituents during his time in office.

That’s news to us.
Grijalva was the strongest supporter of the issue closest to the heart of CRIT members over the past couple of years — the restoration of the La Paz Lands after 90 years.

Simply put, CRIT would not have had the lands returned if it wasn’t for the efforts of Congressman Grijalva.

If that doesn’t meet the definition of “responsiveness” or the job description of an elected official, we don’t know what does.

This is not an impressive or auspicious start to further Mayor Drake’s campaign.

We, the people of CRIT are a perfect example of just how far Drake’s critique misses the mark.

Blythe community leader expresses support for CRIT casino

(Editor’s Note: The following was submitted as a letter to the editor to Blythe’s newspaper)

With the elections over and hope being infused into our local health care situation, several persons have asked me the status of the proposed Blythe-CRIT entertainment and gaming facility. That’s why I wanted to provide you with an update. I have been privileged to assist this project over the past year and am an enthusiastic supporter.

In May of this year both the Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT) Tribal Council and the Blythe City Council passed a Municipal Services Agreement (MSA). This agreement spells out the respective obligations of the Tribe and the City should a gaming compact be negotiated with Governor Schwarzenegger’s Office. A state gaming compact would also have to be ratified by the California State Legislature.

Mayor Crain, the Blythe City Council and the City Manager’s Office did an excellent job negotiating a win-win agreement for our community, as well as our partners in Parker.

Ultimately we believe the many environmental and economic benefits for all parties can and will justify enthusiastic support in Sacramento. And I would like to point out this community stood up and voted in big numbers for Governor Schwarzenegger during the recall election. I believe he should now stand up and support us. This effort has gone about matters in the right way. Local support. Compelling environmental benefits by not locating a casino on the Colorado River and instead putting it on an old landfill in Blythe.

Ultimately, the U.S. Department of Interior will have to approve the proposal. Fortunately, the old landfill lies within CRIT’s “ancestral roaming grounds” and is in close proximity to existing tribal lands.

And if you think that sounds like a lot keep in mind CRIT just received congressional and presidential approval for the return of its 16,000 acre “La Paz Lands” after years of struggle. That political achievement was recently featured on the front page of *The Arizona Republic* and is one of the many reasons I remain optimistic about this project.

If we shoot for nothing we’ll hit it every time. That’s why I encourage the community of Blythe

to continue its support for this project. We will greatly benefit from it and our economic survival may depend on it. The infusion of money into the area can only help our health care situation. The environmental benefits are obvious. Know too that we may need to call on you from time to time to let our elected leaders at all levels of government know that we support moving this project forward.

There are so many good things at stake. A bunch of new tax revenue to fund needs in Blythe as well as our public safety, parks and other community improvements. Hundreds of jobs. A huge economic infusion for other Blythe businesses. I could go on and on.

So thank you in advance for your ongoing support, and for reading my letter.

Bob Grady
Chief of Police (Retired), City of Blythe

Member congratulates CRIT

Dear Chairman:

CONGRATULATIONS!!!! The return of our ancestral lands called “The Peace” (La Paz) was very, very long overdue!

As an easterner, my family descended from the Seneca’s and Iroquois’ of Northwestern New York and Northeastern Pennsylvania (we are called the White Eared Deer People), called “The Six Nation’s,” I was never able to become officially registered because of the prejudice of the time in admitting that an “Indian” fathered the child of a white-eyed woman.

Today I am 62 years old, live in Sun City West, and I am very proud of the Native American blood that runs through my veins.

And I am very proud that you are the chairman of our people here. You are doing a great job! I am shedding tears of joy, and tears of sadness that I was unable to participate in the celebration at the latest news of the return of our lands. One of those T-shirts I would have worn very proudly!

Sincerely,
Arizona Cornplanter (The original CORNPLANTER, of whom I am a descendant, lived from 1750 to 1836. I adopted his name out of love and respect for his memory and my heritage, which I cherish. I respectfully ask you if taking this name is acceptable and permissible?)

William Lawrence Miller
Sun City West

We want to hear from you!

The *Manataba Messenger* encourages letters to the editor. Share your thoughts on key issues and tell us about things the people of CRIT might find of interest. We will publish a maximum of 250 words; longer letters will be edited for length.

You may send letters to:
Route 1, Box 23-B Parker, AZ 85344
You may also e-mail letters to critnews@aol.com

Military theme in February contest



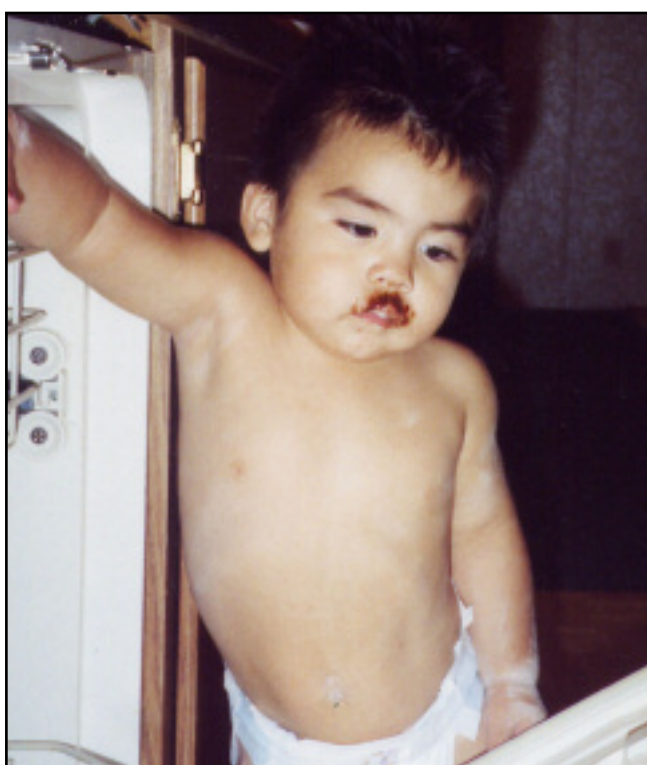
Submit now, win in April

Jerome Welsh, currently stationed on the USS Chancellorsville, is the winner of the February photo contest with his photo of military ships at sea from the boat. He will receive \$100 for his winning entry.

Second prize goes to Rachel Ramirez of Parker for her photo of her 2-year-old great nephew Michael Rodriguez (left). She will receive \$50 for her entry. Third prize goes to Hanna Tiger of Parker for her photo of her grandson after eating ice cream (bottom left). She will receive \$25. Honorable mention goes to Mollie Salgado of Parker for her photo of 4-year-old Cheyenne Salgado (bottom right).

The photo contest will take place in every issue! The next issue will come out around April 1st. The deadline for submissions is March 15. You must be a tribal member, and no professional portraits are eligible.

To enter, send your picture to: *Manataba Messenger*, C/O Rose & Allyn Public Relations, 7051 E. 5th Avenue Suite B, Scottsdale, AZ 85251. Or just e-mail the entry to critnews@aol.com.



Upcoming Events

Events coming to BlueWater Resort

- On February 3-5, Best in the Desert and BlueWater Resort & Casino presents the "BlueWater Resort & Casino Parker 425 — The Legend Lives On." The course will be a 140-mile loop and will be raced three times. Shea Road, Osborne Wash and The Phytton will open for spectators. Times trials are on Thursday (spectator's are welcome), and Tech & Contingency inspection is on Friday at the East Parking Lot of the BlueWater Resort & Casino. Race day is Saturday with the Awards presentation on Sunday in the Bingo Hall. For more information contact Best in the Desert at (702) 457-5775 or visit www.bitd.com.

- Sunday, February 5 is the Super Sunday Party in the Dig Lounge. A \$10 cover charge starts at 3 p.m. and includes food and more. It also includes an entry for prize giveaways. The Grand Prize is a recliner chair and TV. Watch the big game on the big screen in the Dig Lounge or the eight 42-inch plasma TVs. Get to the Lounge early, as seating is limited.

- On Saturday, February 11, Turn The Page, a tribute to Bob Seger and The Silver Bullet Band will perform live in the BlueWater Resort & Casino Bingo Concert Hall. Doors open at 6 p.m. and show starts at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 day-of-show.

- On Tuesday February 14, Ray Price returns to BlueWater to perform two shows on Valentine Day. The first show is at 5 p.m. and the second at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$27 in advance and \$32 day-of-show.

- From February 24-26, BlueWater Resort & Casino will be the host property for the Arizona Federation of Dart Associations 2006 Arizona State League Team and Singles Championship. Numerous Steel Dart Leagues and Associations throughout the state of Arizona will be participating in this event. For more information call Doit Miller at (602) 943-7252.

- On March 11-12, BlueWater Resort & Casino will be the host property for the annual Parker Ski Marathon. The International Water Ski Racing Association, a division of the National Water Ski Racing Association, sanctions the world-renowned water ski race event. The race attracts the top marathon water ski racers from around the world. The course for this event will be from the beach at BlueWater to the turnaround at the south end of La Paz County Park and back to BlueWater.

- From March 24-26, the BlueWater Resort & Casino will be the host property and title sponsor for the 2006 Arizona BCA State Championships. This BCA Pool League event will consist of Singles, Mixed Scotch, Men's & Women's Teams vying for the State Championships in their divisions. This three-day event will be held in Mohave I & II.

- On March 25, Seals & Seals will be performing in the Bingo Concert Hall. Jim Seals of "Seals & Croft" with hits like "Summer Breeze" "Diamond Girl" "We May Never Pass This Way Again" and "Get Closer" joins with Dan Seals of England Dan and John Ford Coley, with his hits like "I'd Really Love To See You Tonight" "Nights Are Forever Without You" and

Please see EVENTS, Page 10

Messenger Interviews...Attorney General Terry Goddard

Terry Goddard was elected as Arizona's Attorney General in November 2002. He recently took the time to answer some questions for the *Manataba Messenger*.

Q: You have been Attorney General for the past three years – how do you like it?

A: This job is extremely rewarding and deals with a large variety of important issues. As the state's chief law enforcement officer, I work on matters ranging from criminal prosecutions to civil lawsuits to consumer protection initiatives.



Terry Goddard

My office represents most state agencies and handles different legal issues on a daily basis. I feel privileged to have the chance to serve and protect the people of Arizona.

Q: Is it what you expected?

A: Generally speaking, yes. What I didn't fully anticipate was how broad the spectrum of issues coming to the office would be. No two days are alike, and we often have several high priority cases to deal with at the same time. This makes the job both challenging and stimulating.

Q: During your tenure, is there one particular moment or issue that stands out as your proudest accomplishment so far?

A: It's hard to single out just one. I'm proud of the professional legal work done by our office on a regular basis, and I'm especially proud when we obtain verdicts or settlements that benefit a large number of citizens, such as the recent predatory lending settlement with a large mortgage lending company, Ameriquest. It will return more than \$5 million to Arizonans who took out more than 14,000 loans.

Q: What are some examples of issues that could affect the Native American Communities?

A: Proposition 200. In November 2004, Arizona voters passed Proposition 200, requiring Arizona residents to provide proof of U.S. citizenship or immigration status when applying for public benefits, except those that are federally mandated. The law also requires that voters show identification at the polls to vote. Establishing voting rules for the ID requirement was crucial. I wanted to make sure that any eligible voter in Arizona who wanted to cast a vote Office of Attorney General Terry Goddard would be able to do just that. The new rules are a major change and may surprise some citizens when they come to the polls this year, so I encourage all voters to become familiar with ID requirement.

Identity theft: Fighting this crime is a high priority in my office. We are working with local, state and national police agencies to target and arrest organized rings that create false documents. My office is also working to get the word out to citizens about strategies to protect

against ID theft. The Community Services Program in my office provides educational presentations that focus on consumer fraud and protection of civil rights for community groups interested in learning more about these issues. In addition to presentations, we also have the Fraud Fighters Van. This is the newest tool to help bring services and information to senior centers, libraries, elected officials' offices or local neighborhood events across the state. The Fraud Fighters Van is filled with information about identity theft, scam alerts, Internet safety and more. If you are interested in having the Fraud Fighters Van or having a member of the Community Services Program visit your community, please call 602-542-2123 (1-866-358-6661 outside Maricopa County) or send an email to communityservices@azag.gov.

Also, the fight against Meth. Meth use and production have reached epidemic levels in Arizona and many other states. The costs are high in terms of ruined lives and damage to our homes and environment. Rural areas are vulnerable to mobile meth labs that dump the toxic byproducts created when meth is cooked. The continued high rate of meth abuse underlines the need for a comprehensive strategy that includes education, emphasis on demand reduction and better treatment programs. I am going back to the State Legislature this session to

Please see **GODDARD**, Page 12

Valentine's Day is February 14th!



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that celebrates love...*



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Author of Poston camp novel visiting CRIT

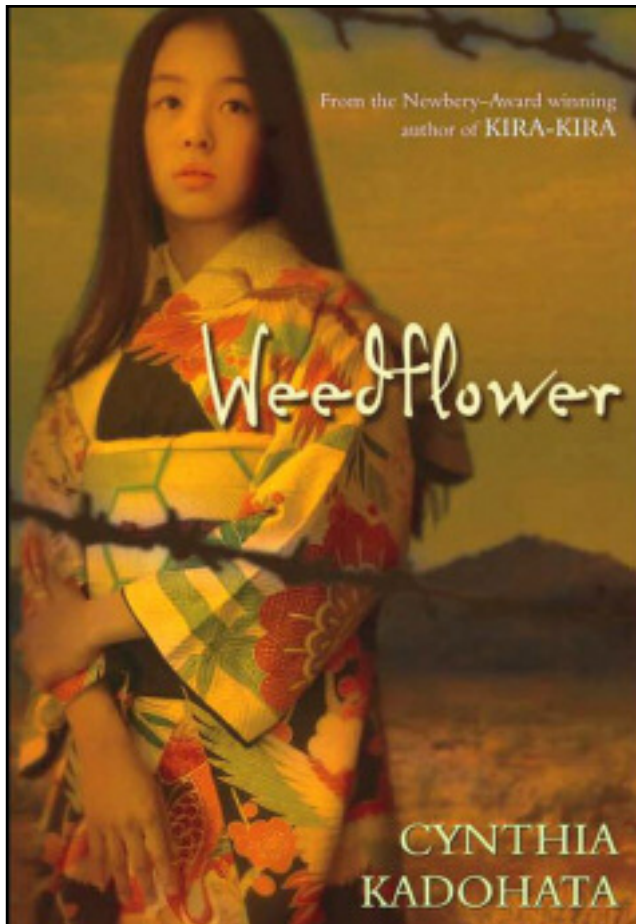
Cynthia Kadohata, winner of the 2004 Newberry Award — given for the best novel for young people — has been invited to come to Parker. Her latest work, *Weedflower*, is the story of a 12-year-old Japanese American girl who is interned at Poston during World War II. All Americans of Japanese decent were moved to ten internment camps after Pearl Harbor.

The story revolves around the main character, Sumiko, and her struggles in the Poston Camp. It talks about what life was like living in a barracks — the heat, dust storms, suspicion from local citizens and even the good times. In the story, Sumiko meets a Mohave boy her age named Frank, and they become friends. Frank is interested in the irrigation canals the Japanese American internees are putting up around the reservation — including Camp 2. That is where Le Pera School is now, and they are the same canals built in 1943.

The author's publishing company sent a number of copies to the Parker School District for the students to read. The Education Department wrote a grant to bring the author to Parker in March. Ms. Kadohata will talk about her book to the 4-8th graders, and on Thursday evening, March 30, she will give a public reading at Le Pera school and answer questions. For more information, contact the Education Department at (928) 669-8831.

Fence Around Camp 1

A perimeter fence around the Poston Camp is being erected. The CRIT Environmental Protection Office found areas of the site that need to be environmentally remediated, and will handle those efforts. The other purpose of the fence is to preserve the site as an historic place. Fencing should be completed shortly.



National Landmark Status

A well-known anthropologist, Jeffrey Burton, has been contracted by the State Historic Preservation Office to write an application making Poston a National Historic Landmark. Burton, who has written a book on the history of the Japanese American Internment Camps, will come out in March to look at Poston and take photographs for the grant. Making the former internment camp a National Landmark will greatly assist in getting funding to build a museum.

CRIT BRIEFS

News from around and outside the Colorado River Indian Tribes Reservation

UA program open to Tribal students

The University of Arizona School of Information Resources and Library Science (SIRLS) is pleased to announce it is now recruiting students for Knowledge River — a Master's Degree program leading to an exciting career as an information professional, focusing on the information and library needs and perspectives of Hispanics and Native Americans.

Students accepted into Knowledge River will receive full tuition and a generous graduate assistantship or stipend for one academic year, in addition to other special program features. A Bachelor's degree in any field is acceptable. The application deadline is April 1.

Knowledge River has an innovative program design, with culturally relevant courses, professional development, academic support and the opportunity to go through the program with a large peer group. Now starting its fifth year, the program will be admitting fifteen new students to Knowledge River for Fall 2006. All eligibility requirements and application procedures can be found at <http://knowledge river.arizona.edu>, or by calling (520) 621-3958.

Students wishing to be considered for Knowledge River must be accepted into the SIRLS graduate program. To contact SIRLS for information or questions, call (520) 621-3565 or visit www.sir.arizona.edu.

Cook College celebrates 95th

Cook College & Theological School in Tempe, which represents more than 90 different Indian tribes from throughout the U.S. and Canada, is celebrating its 95th anniversary this year.

It is the only college of its kind, serving inter-tribal and multi-denominational students. There will be events throughout the year to celebrate the anniversary. For more information, visit www.cookcollege.org.

Library offers computer classes

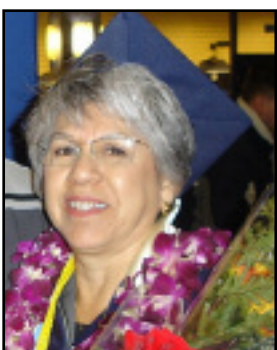
The CRIT Library is offering a variety of classes this month. For more information, call (928) 669-1332 or visit the Library web page at www.critonline.com. The classes are:

- February 7: Basic Computer for Beginners
- February 8: Valentine Craft for Adults
- February 9: Valentine Crafts for Kids
- February 9: Adobe Illustrator for Beginners
- February 10: Valentine Crafts for Kids
- February 11: Sounds (learn to record music and voice for PowerPoint)
- February 13: Valentine Crafts for Kids
- February 15: Free Internet E-mail
- February 16: Basic Microsoft Word
- February 18: How to play the Guitar
- February 21: MS Basic Excel Spreadsheets
- February 23: Internet for Beginners

Announcements

Graduation

Amelia Flores, CRIT tribal member received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Education "Summa Cum Laude" on December 16, 2005 from Northern Arizona University. While enrolled at NAU, Flores made the College of Education Dean's List for Fall 2004 and Spring 2005. Flores is currently the CRIT Library Director. Family, friends and fellow staff members congratulate her on a job well done.



Obituary

Christian L. Stillman, "Quiz", 38, born on January 24, 1967, in Parker, passed away on November 26, 2005 in Parker. Services were held on December 4 and 5.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Joyce E. Dick and son, Michael Richard Stillman, both of Parker. Survivors include his

father, Courtney Stillman, Sr., of Yuma; two Sisters, Joycelyn and Billie Jean; brothers Courtney, Parrish, David and Terrance; his Uncle Cecil Dick, Sr.; and nephews and nieces.

Quiz who resided in Parker for 38 years and worked for the Colorado River Indian Tribes, BlueWater Casino and Dayton Superior for a number of years.

His love for sports continued in his adulthood with basketball, baseball and softball. He will be missed by his family, relatives and friends.

The Family of Christian "Quiz" Stillman would like to thank all the family, friends, singers and the Colorado River Indian Tribes Maintenance Department for all the flowers, food and cards. Thank you all so much.



To submit an announcement, see the contact information on Page 12 of this issue.

CRIT Museum celebrates 40th anniversary

It's a celebration of historic proportions.

The CRIT Museum is celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2006, and is marking the occasion by enhancing and revitalizing its facility and reaching out to the Tribal community and visitors.

The museum is the longest-running Tribal museum of any in the country, according to Director Michael Tsosie, and was the first Tribal museum that was totally funded and supported by the tribe itself.

"We've been really trying to promote the rich history of our tribes, and to truly be a public facility," Tsosie said.

The CRIT Museum features a variety of native artifacts, crafts, historical information and relics designed to teach Tribal members and outsiders more about CRIT's rich history.



This old photo of a woman in traditional dress is one of many on display at the museum.

The focus of work at the museum over the past year has been to make the facility more modern and accessible to the public. That has included not only making sure the artifacts are displayed in the best fashion possible, but also creating new exhibits and features that tie in Tribal history with the present day.

For example, Tsosie said, the museum will be featuring an exhibit

on water and the role it has played in the history of the region.

"Water is what attracted us to this area — the people, the animals, everything," he said. "It also is what brought other cultures to the area."

The museum's permanent exhibits will be complemented by rotating exhibits and different themes in the upcoming year.

The focus, however, will continue to be on some of the museum's most prized possessions, including its extensive Chemehuevi basket collection.

"We have the world's best Chemehuevi basket collection," Tsosie said. "There are over 700 of them, making it the most extensive collection in the world."

The museum is also being taken outside of the facility's walls and into the community.

For example, the museum has been involved with activities by other Tribal departments, such as the recent Fall Gathering, and is working with local schools to pass on Tribal history and knowledge. And for the Tribes' Thanksgiving Dinner, the museum provided an exhibit on native food.

All of these activities will be complemented by the 40th anniversary celebration. Events will take place throughout the year to mark the occasion. More details will be available in upcoming issues of the *Manataba Messenger*.

The CRIT Museum is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information, please call the museum at (928) 669-1272.



(Top) The CRIT Museum features a mastodon head and dinosaur bones found on the CRIT reservation.

(Above) These papooses include quality craftsmanship and a variety of different designs and colors.

(Left) The CRIT Museum features many different kinds of pots and ceramics created by the tribes.

(Below) The museum also boasts one of the largest collections of Chemehuevi baskets in the world.



Museum encourages artists to enter La Paz Co. Fair

The CRIT Museum is encouraging talented Tribal artists and crafts people to enter the Arts & Crafts competition at the La Paz County Fair.

The competition is open to Tribal members and local artists, and will take place during the week of the fair, which is in mid-March.

Those interested in the competition may call Stephanie Bow at (928) 669-1272.

40th Anniversary plans underway

Preparations are underway for the 40th Anniversary of the CRIT Museum.

The Museum will have a celebration event on Friday, April 21. The schedule of events is to be announced.

The event is envisioned to not

CRIT MUSEUM NOTES

Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the CRIT Museum

only be a celebration of the Museum's history — it is the oldest Tribal museum in the country — but also an opportunity for members and outsiders to learn about Tribal culture.

It will also showcase some of the improvements and enhancements made to the Museum over the past year.

More information will be made available on the event in the April issue of this publication.

La Paz County Fair Arts & Crafts Contest

The CRIT Museum is calling on all talented artists to enter their Native American Beadwork and Arts & Crafts in the competition.

Tribal members and local artists are encouraged and welcome to participate in the annual event, which will be held during the La Paz County Fair in mid-March.

For more information, contact Stephanie Bow, Event Coordinator, at (928) 669-1272.

MANATABA MESSENGER “Best of Parker” Contest Results

Best of Parker Winning Businesses/Attractions — 2005

Best restaurant:

CROSSROADS

Best Mexican food:

RUPERTOS

Best fast food:

BURGER KING

Best breakfast:

COFFEE ERN'S

Best ethnic food (Chinese, etc.):

CHINA GARDENS

Best sandwiches:

BLIMPIE

Best nighttime hangout:

BLUEWATER RESORT AND CASINO

Best area attraction:

BLUEWATER RESORT AND CASINO

Best natural attraction/outdoor area:

THE COLORADO RIVER

Best grocery store:

SAFeway

Best place to shop:

SAFeway

Four Tribal members split \$100 first prize for guessing winners correctly

The *Manataba Messenger* is pleased to announce the results of the first-annual Best of Parker contest.

Four Tribal members will split the \$100 first prize for correctly picking the winners in the most categories.

The winners of the contest are:

Charlotte Aameelyenah
Elizabeth Hernandez
Courtney Nez
Twyla Sackett

Each of the four Tribal members guessed all the winners correctly except for two.

The winning area businesses and attractions in each category are listed above.

Congratulations to the winners of the contest and the businesses selected “Best of Parker,” and thank you to everyone who sent in an entry!

If you have suggestions or ideas for next year's Best of Parker contest, please feel free to let us at the Manataba Messenger know. The contact information is on Page 12 of this issue.

“Desert Dash” promotes exercise

CRIT is teaming up with the Parker Rotary, Parker Area Youth Activities and the Players 9th Street Youth Center to promote the 15th Annual Buckskin Mountain Desert Dash.

The 5-mile mountain bike event, 5-kilometer run and 5-kilometer fitness walk will take place on Saturday, February 18 at 10 a.m.

The event begins at the intersection of Highway 95 and Cienega Springs Road, five miles north of Parker. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. at the site, and pre-registration is requested.

The entry fee for the event is \$20 before February 12, and \$25 after and on race day. The fee for children 12 and under is \$15.

CRIT Recreation is encouraging its employees to participate by sponsoring the first 50 Tribal employees who want to take part in the event. The goal of CRIT Recreation is to promote the event as an example of activities that can improve the health of Tribal members.

CRIT will pay the \$20 entry fee for those employees.

The event includes prize drawings, and will benefit Parker Area Youth Activities and the Players 9th Street Youth Center.

Tribal employees interested in participating may call the CRIT Recreation Office at (928) 669-1350. For more information on the race, call (760) 665-8894 or (928) 667-2829.

Basketball tournaments on tap

Two major CRIT Recreation basketball tournaments will tip off in February.

15th Annual Desert Dash

WHEN: February 18 at 10 a.m.
WHERE: Intersection of Highway 95 and Cienega Springs Road.
WHAT: 5-mile mountain bike event, 5-kilometer run and 5-kilometer walk.
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Call (760) 665-8894 or (928) 667-2829.

The 39th Annual CRIT All-Indian Men's Basketball Tournament will take place on February 10 and 11 at the CRIT Irataba Gymnasium.

Members of any recognized tribe who are 18 years old or older may participate in the event (proof of enrollment is required). The deadline for registration is February 8, and the entry fee for each team is \$200.

The tournament will be a double-elimination bracket format with one championship game. Awards will be given for first through fourth place, and to the most valuable player, All-Tournament Team and the most three-pointers made.

On February 24 and 25, the 10th Annual Men's Open 6-Foot and Under Basketball Tournament will be held at the gym.

The entry fee for this tournament is also \$200, and the deadline for entry is February 22.

For more information on either tournament, contact the CRIT Recreation Department at (928) 669-1350.

Highway 95 to be under construction until early summer

Construction work on Highway 95 through the Town of Parker will continue until June 2006, meaning a few more months of lane restrictions for local residents.

The project to widen and improve the road through the town began in the summer of 2006, and is on schedule for completion in June, according to information from the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT).

When finished, the road will be two lanes in each direction with a center turn lane.

The construction begins about a quarter-mile south of the Town limits, and continues until about five miles north of the community.

The project was made necessary by population and business growth in the area, as well as an increase in truck and commercial traffic as a result of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

Highway 95 is a major trucking corridor linking Canada, the U.S. and Mexico, and has seen an upswing in the amount of traffic on the road since NAFTA's passage in the mid-1990s.

The Parker stretch is one of a number of different projects being done along the route to handle the traffic from NAFTA and other growth in the region. For more information on the project, visit the state of Arizona web site at www.az.gov, and follow the link to ADOT.

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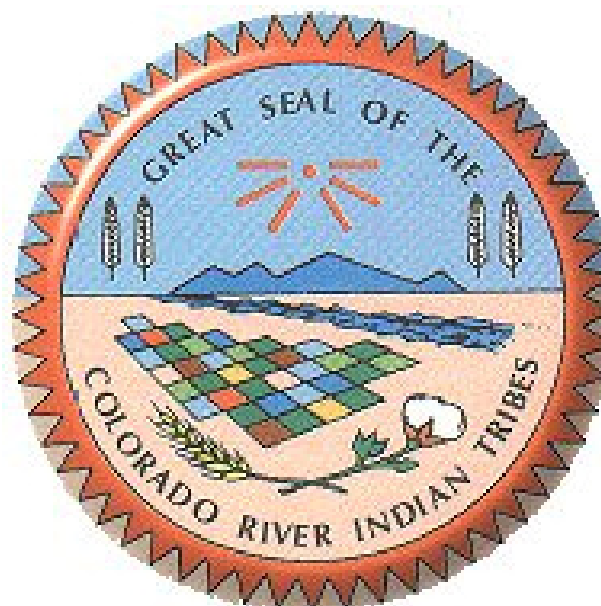
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The additional revenue will be used to fund and enhance tribal health care, elder services, public safety and other services provided by the Tribes.

David Moore, 10th Grade
Joshua Moore, 9th Grade

Parker mayor hopes for more Town-CRIT cooperation

Heeringa cites previous cooperative efforts, urges participation by CRIT members in Town government

Parker Mayor Sam Heeringa said in an interview with the *Manataba Messenger* last month that he sees a lot of good things happening these days between Town government and CRIT.

He cites a number of examples where the two entities are working together as an example of the promise of the sometimes strained relationship between the two entities.

Specifically, he said that mutual efforts on hospital expansion, environmental cleanup, senior feeding, the community cemetery and school athletic fields are an example of successful collaborations between the two.

“Those are the kind of things that set a good tone and shows that we’re a community that works together,” he said.

And there are a number of areas where Heeringa said he would like to see the Town and CRIT work side-by-side to improve the community’s quality of life.

“I want to create what I call a ‘symbiotic’ relationship — we must work together to accomplish something for all of us,” he said.

Heeringa cites tourism efforts, the town’s upcoming 100th anniversary planning, repairs to the community swimming pool and increased participation in Town government by Tribal members living within Town limits as areas he would like to address jointly.

Heeringa is in his second term on the Town Council, and was appointed the Town’s mayor by the Town Council in June 2005. Council members serve four-year terms, and mayors serve two-year terms within that four years.

He is a former principal with the Parker Unified School District who retired at the same time he was selected to be mayor. The 11-year resident of Parker said his involvement with the community comes naturally to him.

“If I’m going to be in a community, I want to be of service,” he said.

Heeringa said he has some areas of concern about Tribal activities as they relate to Parker.



Parker Mayor Sam Heeringa hopes that the relationship between CRIT and the town is on a positive path.

“I want to create what I call a ‘symbiotic’ relationship — we must work together to accomplish something for all of us.”

**— Sam Heeringa
Mayor of Parker**

For example, he said he respects CRIT’s authority to levy sales taxes, but has concerns about how the taxes will affect local businesses. He also said there have been opportunities missed where the two entities could have worked together, such as construction of animal control facilities.

“But I want to continue to work together in all areas, and I respect CRIT’s efforts as well,” he said.

As for issues facing Parker independent of its relationship with CRIT, Heeringa said the

Town is most focused on trying to shore up its tax base so that it can fund community services.

He said discussions have taken place about implementing a property tax or taxing storage units in the community, but any decision made would be subject to approval by voters.

Heeringa also said the development of the “Parker South” area of the community is a top priority, especially because of the need for quality housing in the community for young professionals, such as teachers and law enforcement personnel.

He encouraged Tribal members with questions about Town activities to contact the Town for more information, and to participate in Town government.

“More participation would send a strong signal that Tribal members are interested in Town affairs,” he said.

EVENTS,

From Page 3

“Love is The Answer.” The first show is at 6 p.m. and the second at 8:30 p.m. Ticket prices are \$25 in advance and \$30 day-of-show.

- April 7-8 is the 5th Annual BlueWater Resort & Casino Indian Golf Tournament. Native American players from Arizona, California, Nevada and New Mexico will play the four-star Emerald Canyon course for over \$8,000 in prize money. For more information contact Stewart Eddy at (928) 669-2121 or (928) 669-7908.

Dig Lounge Schedule

Live entertainment will perform in the Dig

Lounge every Wednesday through Saturday. Hours are from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. on Wednesday and Thursday, and until 2 a.m. on Friday and Saturday.

DJ Billy Joe Preston will be in the Lounge on Sunday through Tuesday from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m., with Karaoke on Monday nights.

The following bands are scheduled in the Dig Lounge in February and March:

- February 8-11: Chain Gang, with a female fronting a three-piece band playing classic rock, dance and Top 40.

- February 15-18: American Made, with a female fronting a four-piece band playing a full variety of dance music from the 50s and 60s, disco, country, Top 40 and oldies.

- February 22- 25: DNA, a variety dance band playing rhythm & blues, Motown, Top 40 dance and classic rock.

- March 1-4: Suite 33, a high-energy variety dance band featuring Top 40, classic rock and 50s and 60s.

- March 8-11: Pilot, with a female fronting a three-piece band playing rhythm & blues from the 50s and 60s, Top 40 dance, classic rock, old school and disco.

- March 15-18: The Crush, playing hits from the 70s and 80s, classic rock, dance music, disco and alternative dance.

- March 22-25: Swift Kick, a four-piece band specializing in current dance music along with selection from the 50s through 90s.

- March 28-April 1: Fast Forward, a four-piece band from Southern California with a large and extensive repertoire of music playing anything and everything from classic dance tunes of the 50s and 60s to disco, modern rock and alternative.

Races create benefits, challenges



A truck participates in one of the recent Best In The West off-road races outside Parker. CRIT has allowed the races to take place on Tribal lands for several years, and works to balance the positives and negatives.

CRIT strives to balance the positive economic impact of events with concerns for effect on Tribal lands

Hundreds of people recently flocked to Parker to view and participate in a couple of annual off-road races held on the CRIT reservation and on non-CRIT lands in the area.

That's good news for the local economy because of the tourism dollars generated, many of which go to the BlueWater Resort & Casino and end up benefiting Tribal members.

However, there's a down side to the off-road races — the impact they can have on Tribal lands.

It's an issue that CRIT leaders are sensitive to, and do their best to balance with the positives.

Ray Aspa, Tribal Councilman and Fish & Game Department Warden, said that a number of factors are taken into consideration when it comes to racing on Tribal lands.

"From a law-enforcement perspective, we don't mind it as much except that it takes man power," he said. "We usually bring on an extra person for crowd control."

"As far as the Tribal Council is concerned, what I look at is the balance between Tribal members who like the races, and those who don't want them on Tribal lands."

The races most recently on Tribal lands have been organized by Best In The West, which is based in Las Vegas.

Aspa said that environmental impacts are the main concern Tribal members have, and that some Tribal members simply don't like having so many outsiders on Tribal lands.

"They believe it's their property and they

"From a law-enforcement perspective, we don't mind it as much except that it takes man power. We usually bring on an extra person for crowd control. As far as the Tribal Council is concerned, what I look at is the balance between Tribal members who like the races, and those who don't want them on Tribal lands."

— Ray Aspa

Tribal Councilman and Fish & Game Warden

don't want anyone else on it, but there are others who don't feel the same way," he said.

But the economic impacts from having such races are substantial, and make it worthwhile for CRIT to allow such events to take place on Tribal lands.

"We want to catch all the gaming revenue and tax dollars we can," he said.

Aspa said the goal of the Tribal Council and CRIT officials is to strike the right balance between the concerns some Tribal members have and the positive economic impact the races can have on the area.

"Achieving the right balance is really our end goal, and with the current organization, it's been a generally positive experience," he said.

He said that there have been a couple of incidents over the years where race attendees have acted improperly or broken the law, but that for the most part, visitors and racers have been respectful of Tribal lands.

"We just want everyone who participates to feel welcome and have a safe weekend," Aspa said.

Brutal fire season predicted for state and reservation

CRIT Fire urges residents to begin preparing now by clearing brush

Thanks to a combination of a record dry streak and a wet winter last year, the state of Arizona and the CRIT Reservation could be on the verge of a dangerous wildfire season.

In fact, already in 2006 the CRIT Reservation has been the site of three wildfires, despite the fact that wildfire season doesn't usually begin until April.

Terrilynn Little, CRIT Fire Chief, said that the department has been warned that Arizona could be the state with the highest risk of wildfire of any western state this year.

"The State Lands Department has warned us that we're going to be the #1 state for fire season danger," she said. "Usually our season starts in a couple of months, but we're starting to get ready right now."

"It's going to be another bad summer."

Last year, because of heavy winter rains, the CRIT Reservation was the site of several significant wildfires, including one that damaged a large mesquite bosque on the southern end of the reservation.

The fire risk last year led the Tribal Council to restrict access to large portions of the reservation, an action Little anticipates will happen again this year.

"I don't know what the council is planning at the moment, but I'm pretty sure we're going to have to do the same thing as last year," she said.

Little encouraged residents to start preparing now for fire season by removing brush and plants that are close to homes and structures.

She said the CRIT Fire Department will assist residents with controlled burns to dispose of the waste in a safe manner.

Fire Prevention Tips

The CRIT Fire Department provides the following tips for residents looking to protect their homes.

The goal is to create a "defensible space" around the home to prevent the spread of wildfires.

Residents are also encouraged to schedule an inspection or get more information on fire safety by calling (928) 662-4388, or by visiting the department's web page at www.critonline.com.

- Clear all dead brush, tall grasses and weeds from around the house, outbuildings, and recreational vehicles. Leave only plants and trees.
- Remove leaf clutter from roofs and gutters.
- Remove "ladder fuels" — prune tree limbs so the lowest is 6-10 feet from the ground, so that fires can't jump into trees.
- Be careful when disposing of smoking materials, and be cautious in using open flame.
- Trim all dead limbs over a garage, and trim tree limbs within 10 feet of chimneys, vents, etc.
- Check smoke detectors in homes to make sure they are working and the batteries are fresh.

We Want To Hear From You!

The *Manataba Messenger* is a publication of the Colorado River Indian Tribes.
 If you have a question, story idea, suggestion, letter to the editor or anything else you'd like to see in the *Manataba Messenger*, call or write us...

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Also, for a comprehensive listing of key tribal information, back issues of *The Manataba Messenger*, tourism information and other CRIT Tribal information, visit the Tribes' web site:

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COOLER: New crops now possible for local farmers

From Page 1

beneficial addition to our economy.”
 The building consists of a pressure cooling area, cold storage and a standing area/shipping dock enclosed in insulated paneling.
 In addition, it will comprise administrative offices, driver lounge, shop, battery charging, electrical, engine rooms, maintenance office, receiving/packaging materials office and receiving/pre-cooling area.
 The receiving area will contain the vacuum cooler and equipment skid, the refrigeration system condensing unit, ice injector, ice generator, and ice storage.
 “This is something we’ve been working on for quite some time,” said Dempsey Holt of the CRIT Farm Board. “I’m glad it went through because it will allow CRIT Farms to diversify and not have to depend on other entities. It is another step toward self-sufficiency.”
 This cooler project is part of CRIT agricultural production diversification program initiated since 2001 by Dennis Patch, Chairman of the Farm Board, in order to create sustainable

economic activities in the valley.
 One main concern of the Farm Board was that there is no guarantee that federal subsidies, particularly for cotton, will always be available. Therefore, a pro-active measure was needed to insure a healthy economy for the farming industry in the valley.
 The restructuring program stresses the need for diversification into produce cultivations in the valley and the development of agricultural processing plants.
 Although Parker Valley provides a good environment for the production of vegetables and melons, produce cultivation is still marginal at the present time, and not because of climate. The lack of a facility like the proposed cooler is the primary reason.
 Not only will CRIT Farms be able to use the cooler for its own crops, independent farmers will be able to lease capacity in the cooler as well, which will help CRIT offset some of the costs of its operation.
 This project is expected to create more jobs and foster more stable and diversified economies in La Paz County.

GODDARD,

From Page 4

strengthen the meth law adopted last year.
Q: The Attorney General serves as the lead law enforcement officer in the state. Do you find it hard to work with local law enforcement?
 A: I am proud of the good working relationship I have with law enforcement jurisdictions, including tribal law enforcement officials, throughout Arizona. I meet regularly with law enforcement groups, and last year I created a law enforcement advisor position in my office. Tim Black, a retired member of the

Phoenix Police Department, holds this position, and has been extremely valuable in keeping in contact with law enforcement entities throughout Arizona.
Q: If a tribal member would like to contact you, what should they do?
 A: There are many ways to contact me:
 • By phone: I am available at 602-542-5025.
 • By electronic mail: aginquiries@azag.gov.
 • By mail: Terry Goddard, Arizona Attorney General, 1275 W. Washington Street, Phoenix, AZ 85007.
 Please visit our Web site at www.azag.gov. We have much useful information on issues such as ID theft, consumer fraud, Internet Safety and more.



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